The Intern of Two Startups

A Commedia in Modern Times
by Alexander Kveton

Freely Adapted from
The Servant of Two Masters
by Carlo Goldoni

(sample)

SETTING:
New York City
TIME:
Present

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Scene 4

CLARICE's office. CLARICE, STEVE, ALLAN, and LARRY sit imposingly around CORY.

CLARICE
So Cory, we've seen your resume -

STEVE
Why didn't you staple it?

CLARICE
Steve.

STEVE
Sorry. I'm pumped.

CLARICE
Cory, since we are a company dealing first and foremost in security, we'd obviously like to get to know you more. Then we'll also be able to see how you take criticism and can adapt to a fast-paced environment. Is that okay with you?

CORY
Yes.

CLARICE
Good. Now which of us wants to -

LARRY
Cory, do you get seasick?

CORY
What?

CLARICE
Can we please ask -

LARRY
Life-preserver or no life-preserver?

CORY
I can swim, what does that -

ALLAN
They want to know will you sink or swim.
LARRY
(disappointed in ALLAN)
Aw, we were using psychology.

CORY
I will absolutely swim if I am thrown from the metaphorical boat. I think especially as a woman I bring the maternal instinct of wanting to raise something new into self-sustaining maturity. I am protective and very good with secrets for the sake of my child.

ALLAN
Are you saying you’re pregnant or something?

CORY
It – it’s a metaphor. Like, like the boat.

LARRY
She thinks she knows psychology.

CORY
That’s not what –

CLARICE
Can you elaborate more though on what you specifically bring?

CORY
I’m saying that I am able to put myself aside and focus on what needs to be done. And I’m so happy that there is a woman in charge here, because I find there is less competition and more cooperation when women are in the room.

CLARICE
Was there a specific job that showed you this?

CORY
I mean, there were projects in undergrad, but in terms of jobs –

STEVE
I don’t get competitive. Why would I get competitive? You think you’re less competitive than me? Don’t you think you might be generalizing?

CLARICE
Steve.

STEVE
Sorry babe.

CORY
I do think it’s safe to say that women have an easier time than men hiding when they get excited.

ALLAN
Is that a dick joke?
See? She’s fun.

ALLAN
Do you plan on getting pregnant anytime soon?

CLARICE
Dad -

LARRY
How long do your periods last?

STEVE
Dad -

LARRY
It’s a medical question.

ALLAN
You need to know these things.

CLARICE
Can we please limit the questions to personality and not anatomy?

STEVE
Godfather 1 or Godfather 2?

CORY
Haven’t seen them.
(STEVE falls over.)
But they’re in my queue.

CLARICE
You actually should see them.

ALLAN
How much do you hope to make?

CORY
Eighty thousand plus benefits.

CLARICE
Why do you want this job?

CORY
Because I think it’s a place where I can finally be myself, and do great work. And I know that I can here.
(CLARICE smiles.)

CLARICE
Thank you. How do you feel?

CORY
Fine.
CLARICE
How do we feel about Cory's answers?

LARRY
Pushy.

ALLAN
A little shouty.

STEVE
Confident. But not in such a bad way.

CORY
Thank you?

CLARICE
I'd say, calculated.
(CLARICE stares at CORY.)
Thank you. We'll call you in after our second.

CORY
Thank you all.
(CORY gets up and walks towards the door. She looks outside.)
You know, I don't see anyone out there. Want me to check by the bathroom to see if he's there?

CLARICE
Sure. Why not.

CORY
Great. Thanks so much again. Hope he doesn't suck.
(CORY smiles and exits.)

LARRY
I used to get horribly nervous around interviews when I was younger. Then I realized it was because I didn't know my surroundings and I was uncomfortable being in a place I had never been. It's quite unsettling when you think about it, to be in a place in which you don't know the rules. What belongs to whom. That's why I would always sneak into every office I was to interview in before anyone was around. Before the building even opened. That's how I got through medical school.
(ARI enters.)

ARI
Mr. Leone, I just got off the phone with Department of Health. They say someone has made an anonymous tip to them saying we have a possible infestation in the building.

ALLAN
Of what?
ARI
Some penis sucking parasite or something.
(The men react.)
They advised you, as the owner, to close the building.

ALLAN
This is ridiculous, I’m not wasting any more time on this, you tell
that security guard to stay put and not let anyone in.

ARI
I would, but he already ran off fearing for his privates.

ALLAN
Unbelievable.

ARI
Is there anything -

ALLAN
Don’t tell any of the tenants about this and find out what idiot
almost lost us a whole day of business. If I find out who I’ll -
(The door opens and in walks CORY, wearing mens clothes
found in the fashion designer’s studio. Her hair is slicked
back and sticks to her scalp. There’s a strange Patrick
Bateman vibe to her. ARI slowly exits around her.)

CLARICE
Oh. Hello. Nice to meet you. Please have a seat.

I’ll stand.

CORY

CLARICE
Okay, so you must be Cory Zan - Steve, is this the right resume?

STEVE
Should be.

This is Cory’s resume.

STEVE
Oh. Must’ve printed the wrong one.

CLARICE
Can you get Ari to -

CORY
Call me Zan.

CLARICE
What?

CORY
Nobody calls me by my first name. Only my mother calls me that.

LARRY
Man of principle.
(CLARICE gives him a look.)

CLARICE
So your name’s also Cory Zanini?

STEVE
Well, that’s a heck of a coincidence.

CLARICE
Are you sure you wouldn’t like to sit?

CORY
I need space.

LARRY
Sticks to his guns too.

STEVE
Interesting suit you have on there. You don't think it's a little big?

CORY
I'm from Williamsburg.
(The men let out knowing "ohs." They accept this.)

CLARICE
Right. So you come highly recommended by the Lombardis here for your work on WhatsAppDoc…

CORY
Thanks.

CLARICE
But since we are a company dealing first and foremost in security, we would like / to -

CORY
Excuse me, but I would like to get this started.

CLARICE
I was just / doing -

CORY
Here’s what you got to know about me. I like to work when I want to. If you need me to do something, and I’m not in the mood, that’s too bad. I come in when I want for the same reason as previously mentioned. I do not work well with others because I always know better than them. If this is violated, I have a hard time controlling my emotions, of which I only have two - anger and frustration. Though I have been known to cry uncontrollably, like a woman. But if you point that out, I’ll react with one of the two previously stated emotions
and may resort to violence. I get shit done, and if you don’t like it, then you’re shit out of luck.

LARRY

Do you get seasick?

CORY

Yes.

LARRY

Life-preserver or no life-preserver?

CORY

I can't swim, and I don’t like these touchy-feely questions.

He’s a regular cowboy.

LARRY

STEVE

Godfather 1 or Godfather 2?

CORY

I think they’re boring and if you don’t, then you’re just a sheeple.

Shoots from the hip.

STEVE

CORY

Someone ask me how much I want to make.

ALLAN

How much money do you hope to make?

CORY

One hundred twenty thousand plus benefits.

(Impressed murmurs from the men.)

CLARICE

Has anyone complained about your work at WhatsAppDoc?

CORY

No.

CLARICE

What about the man who said you told him to rub his penis in Crisco and then wrap it in saran wrap? Is that a medical procedure?

CORY

I just went with my gut.

(Impressed murmurs from the men.)

LARRY

What'd I tell you? A cowboy.
CLARICE
So why should we hire you?

CORY
Because I want it. But not really. And if you don’t want me, whatever, you’re all ugly anyway, so you can suck my dick, whatever.
(Men are taken aback, but still with CORY. CLARICE though…)

CLARICE
Are you – are you negging us?

CORY
Even if I am, whatever. You really should sleep more, you have bags –

CLARICE
We’ll be getting back to you soon, thank you.
(CORY turns and walks out the door.)
Okay, so I think it’s pretty clear who we should go with.

STEVE
Why’d you have him leave?

CLARICE
What?

STEVE
We must’ve done something to him to make him say what he did.

CLARICE
I’m sorry –

STEVE
What?

CLARICE
Is there even a comparison between the two candidates we’ve seen?

STEVE
I mean, I can only speak for myself.

CLARICE
Could you do that, please?

LARRY
I think he is a better fit for the work environment.

CLARICE
How?

ALLAN
Okay, Clarice, calm down.

CLARICE
I am calm.
You seem like you aren't.

He expects more money.

He knows his worth.

He was standoffish.

That's not fair, he was standing.

I didn’t like how he looked.

Now who's making a value judgment.

He tried to neg us!

I don’t know what that means.

But did he really like us?

I just think it would be better to have another woman in this office!

Here it comes.

Dad.

Is that really too much to ask?

If you want a less efficient company...

(CLARICE tries to contain herself.)

We do have a relationship with him, Clarice, so in a way, we owe him. You must understand, this Zan has been in the possession of, many photos of a somewhat embarrassing nature to many people, not including myself of course. Or your fiancé -
The point is, it behooves us to keep such a man around. Because he may seem tough at times only proves his trustworthiness.

Is that what you think Steve?

I mean, you know he’s good if he can say all that.

Is that what you think, Dad?

Honestly he scares me, so maybe we should hire him.

I would like to remind you all who is mostly responsible for this merger coming as far as it has, who has done most of the grunt work -

And who has given space and money.

(Clarice contains herself again.)

Babe, is it really that / necessary -

Steve, can you not call me "babe" right now?

Sure babe - I mean -

Okay. I - I need to think about this.

Do we need to be here for that? You’re not going to cry, are you? Because when other people get emotional, I do too. It’s a bad habit I successfully broke Steve here from. Was like my little personal assistant after that. Always good to keep around just in case. Never know when they might come in handy.

(Larry sees everyone is looking at him.)

What? Everyone should have a personal assistant.

(Blackout.)